

## Royal Conservatory of Music Quick Study Tips for Piano Students

5/26/2023

[0 Comments](#)

Consider each of the following before beginning.

- Title. The title can tell you a lot about how the piece is going to be played. Consider: *Avalanche* versus *Minuet in D*. One title suggests a piece that will be loud, fast, and dramatic. The other title suggests refinement and graceful movement.
- Composer. Mozart requires a different musical approach and touch than Bach or Gershwin.
- Key signature. Is this piece in a major or minor key? Practice this scale before beginning.
- Time signature. Look for changes.
- Tempo. In the end, musicality will be more important than tempo. However, you will need to play at a tempo that is within range.
- Dynamics. Often overlooked with unfortunate results.
- Clap the rhythm while counting aloud over a metronome.
- Repeat signs. Missing these is embarrassing.
- Articulations. Legato, staccato etc. bring life to the music.
- Search for funny business like clef changes, hand over hand, key signature changes, and tempo changes often lie hidden from first view.

Now practice hands separately, paying attention to the fingering. Remember: slow and methodical practice will yield quicker results.

Good luck.